

PASSOVER CUSTOMS

The Rabbi will be the agent for the sale of your *Chametz* which can be done either by mail, email, or in person prior to Friday, March 26, 2021 at 9:30 am. Please see the official form for selling Chametz. *Siyyum Bekhorim* for first born sons will take place this year on Thursday, March 25, 2021 after morning services, which begin at 8 am on Zoom. First born sons become exempt from the obligation to fast before Passover by attending the morning service at which a Jewish unit of study is completed.

The principle of Jewish law involved is that one who engages in one mitzvah – completing a book of study and celebrating with refreshments – is exempt from the simultaneous performance of another mitzvah – fasting.

OBSERVANCE: The ceremony of searching for and removing leaven (*Bedikat Chametz*) is to take place Thursday, March 25, 2021 in the evening.

The Passover home atmosphere is created each year by the traditional practice of thoroughly cleaning the home in all its parts and by the removal of all *Chametz* prior to Passover, both at home and when away.

FOODS DURING PESACH FORBIDDEN FOR USE: Leavened bread, cakes, biscuits and crackers, cereals, wheat, barley, oats, rice, peas and all liquids which contain ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol.

PERMITTED FOODS:

a) Requiring no “Kosher for Passover” label: The following foods are permitted in unopened packages or containers: coffee (without additives), sugar, vegetables (except peas and beans), string beans being permitted.

b) Fruits and those vegetables normally permitted for Passover use are permitted in their frozen state.

c) If certified Kosher for Passover use by a Rabbinical authority: Matzah, matzah meal, Passover noodles, candies, cakes, beverages, canned and processed foods, milk, butter, cheese, jams, jellies, vinegar, wines and liquors, kosher gelatin, relishes, salad oils, dried fruits, shortening – are permitted if Rabbinical authority indicates that these items of food have been manufactured and wrapped free from contact with *Chametz*. (Labels and tags marked “Kosher for Passover” are of no value unless they bear a Rabbinical seal.)

UTENSILS: Only dishes and utensils especially reserved for Passover should be used with the following exceptions:

a) The silverware, knives, forks and spoons made wholly of metal, if used during the year, may be used on Passover if thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water. All table glassware is permitted after thorough scouring. Fine translucent chinaware, if not used for a year, is permitted.

b) Metal pots and pans used for cooking purposes only (but not for baking) if made wholly of metal, though used during the year, may be used on Passover if first thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water.

c) Utensils used for baking during the year cannot be used during Passover. (A dishwasher machine may be used for Passover after thoroughly cleaning it and running it through one cycle empty.)

If you have any questions, please consult the Rabbi or check on the following website: Rabbinicalassembly.org/pesah-guide

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SELLING CHAMETZ

Jewish law prohibits owning or handling *Chametz* during Passover. Thus all foods and beverages must either be consumed before erev Pesach (by Saturday, March 27, 2021 at 10:20 am), destroyed, or sold to a non-Jew. You can sell the *Chametz* by filling out the attached form and sending it back to me at the Temple by Friday, March 26, 2021 by 9:30 am (it must reach the Temple by then). If you wish to arrange for the sale of *Chametz* in person, the deadline is Friday, March 26, 2021 by 9:30 am. I will buy the *Chametz* back for you after the holiday is over on Sunday night, April 4, 2021 at 8:30 pm. This is a legal transaction and together with all the necessary Passover cleaning, will enable you to fulfill the Mitzvah of “Not having or seeing *Chametz* (in your possession).” Please note, due to the current circumstances, this year you may also email the temple to sell your *Chametz*. Simply reply to the Sale of *Chametz* email with your name and address. Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and kosher Passover.

--Rabbi Mark Elber

OFFICIAL FORM FOR SELLING CHAMETZ

I, the undersigned, empower and permit Rabbi Mark Elber of Temple Beth El to act in my place and stead, and in my behalf to sell all Chametz (leaven) and all products containing even the smallest percentage of Chametz possessed by me knowingly or unknowingly as defined by the Torah and Rabbinic law, and to lease all places wherein the above mentioned products owned by me may be found, especially premises located at:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Rabbi Mark Elber has the full right to sell and to lease the above by such transactions as he deems fit and proper for such time as he chooses. The authority which is hereby given is meant to be in conformity with the Torah and Rabbinic laws and regulations, and also to be in acceptance with the laws of the State of Massachusetts and of the United States of America.

Signature: _____ Date: _____